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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

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1953 Crop Progress About Normal

Progress of the 1953 crop season is about normal for the country as a whole, although hopes for an early spring were dashed by unseasonably cold weather in April. The soil moisture situation is now mostly satisfactory, except in the dry Southwest. April rains were beneficial, even though they delayed field operations. However, farmers were able to accomplish most of their planned field work and intended plantings to date. Only in some northeastern sections is the delay in seeding spring grains likely to result in shifts to later crops; in some other sections work is still advanced. Freezes that occurred at the latest date of record in several southern sections forced farmers to replant cotton and perhaps some other crops, and may have damaged fruit, lespedeza, and tender vegetables.

Crop Indications May 1, 1953

Crop	Percentage not harvested for grain	Acreage for harvest	Yield per harvested acre	Production
	Percent	1,000 acres	Bushels	1,000 bushels
Winter wheat	19.6	44,526	16.4	729,884
Rye	57.8	1,408	10.8	15,142

Winter Wheat Crop 8 Percent Below Average

Winter wheat in the southern Great Plains suffered from cold weather and freezes and continued drought in April, but improved generally elsewhere. Production is now estimated at 730 million bushels, 16 million more than on April 1. This would be 31 percent smaller than the bumper 1,053 million bushel crop of 1952 and 8 percent below average. The 44.5 million acres left for harvest is 12 percent smaller than acreage harvested in 1952, but about the same as the 1942-51 average. The indicated yield per acre is 16.4 bushels, compared with 20.9 bushels last year and the average of 17.6 bushels.

Smallest Rye Crop

A rye crop of only 15.1 million bushels is now in prospect, smallest in the 88 years of record. The 1,408,000 acres for harvest as grain is 2 percent larger than the record small acre-

Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14 = 100

Item	Apr. 1952	Mar. 1953	Apr. 1953
Prices received by farmers	290	264	259
Crops	272	253	247
Food grains	250	246	244
Feed grains and hay	229	208	206
Tobacco	435	424	424
Cotton	313	266	266
Fruit	179	215	226
Truck crops	308	248	204
Oil-bearing crops	279	291	289
Livestock and products	306	274	270
Meat animals	372	301	299
Dairy products	291	277	264
Poultry and eggs.....	180	216	218
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities	276	1/ 265	264
Commodities used in living	271	269	269
Commodities used in production	1/ 281	1/ 261	257
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates	289	281	279
Parity ratio (prices rec'd to prices paid by farmers).....	100	94	93

1/ Revised.

age of last year, but is only two-thirds as large as the 10-year average acreage of 2,108,000.

Fruit Crops

Peach crop in 10 Southern States is forecast at 12,110,000 bushels—14 percent above last year, but 13 percent below average.

Sweet cherry crop in California is forecast at 31,000 tons, 5 percent above average.

Apricot crop in California is forecast at 178,000 tons, 13 percent above the 1952 crop, but 11 percent below the 10-year average.

Condition of prunes in California on May 1 was 59 percent; the May 1 average is 74 percent. Plum crop in California is forecast at 76,000 tons, 5,600 tons below average.

Apples bloomed earlier than usual in California. Some early flowering varieties were damaged by late spring frosts.

Orange crop for the 1952-53 season is estimated at 120.7 million boxes, 2 percent above last season and 18 percent above average.

Grapefruit crop is placed at 38 million boxes, 6 percent less than last season and 26 percent less than average.

Citrus trees in Florida are in excellent condition although many areas have only a moderate set of new crop fruit. Texas citrus areas received very little rain during April. California citrus trees are generally in good condition.

Pasture Condition A Little Below Average

Pastures developed slowly in April, but condition is rather uniformly good, except in most of the Great Plains. The average for the country on May 1, at 80 percent of normal, is 7 points below a year ago and 2 points below average. Carrying capacity is lower than usual this spring in a number of areas where pastures were over-grazed because of dry conditions last fall and have been put to use as early as possible because of shortages of roughage.

Hay Condition A Little Above Average

Hay meadows have mostly developed well, but with only poor to fair prospects in North Dakota and the Great Plains area from Kansas to Texas. Condition is reported at 85 percent 4 points less than a year ago, but 1 point above average. It is expected that a hay crop of 104 to 108 million tons will be harvested in 1953.

Parity Prices for Farm Products and Actual Prices Received

Commodity and Unit	Actual Price			Parity Price
	Mar. 15, 1953	Apr. 15, 1953	Apr. 15, 1953	
Wheat, bu.	dol.	2.10	2.08	2.44
Corn, bu.	dol.	1.46	1.46	1.77
Peanuts, lb.	ct.	11.1	11.1	13.2
Cotton, lb. 1/	ct.	31.52	31.45	34.22
Potatoes, bu.	dol.	2/ 1.65	1.34	1.64
Hogs, 100 lb.	dol.	20.20	20.70	20.30
Beef cattle, 100 lb.	dol.	17.80	17.30	21.00
Calves, 100 lb.	dol.	20.60	19.60	23.40
Lambs, 100 lb.	dol.	20.30	20.80	22.90
Butterfat, lb.	ct.	66.6	65.4	74.5
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. ...	dol.	4.41	3/ 4.12	4.69
Chickens, live, lb.	ct.	27.5	27.2	30.7
Eggs, doz.	ct.	44.7	45.5	47.4

1/ American upland cotton.

2/ Revised.

3/ Preliminary.

4/ Transitional parity.

Hay Stocks Smaller

May 1 stocks of old hay on farms totaled 14,731,000 tons, about a quarter of a million tons less than a year ago and three-quarters of a million tons less than the 10-year average stocks on May 1.

Grain Stocks in All Positions

Grain	April 1-	
	1952	1953
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Wheat	517,894	840,498
Rye	10,692	6,895
Corn	1,511,942	1,808,377
Oats	563,712	506,727
Barley	131,974	98,419
Flaxseed	20,625	19,667
Soybeans	130,118	145,871

Relatively large stocks of wheat and corn remained in all storage positions on April 1, 1953. Stocks of rye and barley were small. Tonnages of the two food grains—wheat and rye—were second only to those of April 1, 1943. April 1 reserves of the 4 feed grains were larger than in 7 of the last 10 years. Stocks of soybeans were the largest April 1 stocks on record. Flaxseed stocks are the smallest April 1 stocks since 1948.

More Cattle on Feed

19 percent more cattle (about 570,000) were on feed for market in the 11 Corn Belt States on April 1 than a year earlier. For the whole country 12 to 14 percent more cattle were on feed April 1 than in April 1952, compared with an increase of 16 percent on January 1.

In the 3 important feeding States of Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska, cattle on feed April 1 totaled 2,227,000 head, 21 percent more than on April 1 last year. All three States showed an increase. About 5 percent fewer cattle were placed on feed during the three months January-March than for the same period a year earlier. Fed cattle marketed since January 1 are estimated at 984,000 head, 21 percent more than in the same period a year ago.

April Egg Production 5 Percent Below Average

Farm flocks laid 6,094 million eggs in April—1 percent less than in April 1952 and 5 percent below the 1942-51 average. Egg production during April averaged 18.1 eggs per layer, compared with 18.0 in April 1952 and the average of 17.6 eggs. The Nation's farm flock averaged 336,415,000 layers in April, 2 percent fewer than in April last year and 7 percent below the average. Decrease in layers from April 1 to May 1 was 5 percent; the average decrease for the month is 6 percent.

Favorable Feeding Ratio

Farm poultry ration in mid-April averaged \$3.94 per 100 pounds compared with \$4.24 a year earlier. The April egg-feed ratio was much more favorable than a year ago because of higher egg prices and lower feed prices.

Record April Milk Production

Milk production in April totaled 10,854 million pounds, a new record for the month and 7 percent more than in April 1952. January to April production is 38,193 million pounds, compared with 35,857 million pounds for the first 4 months of 1952 and a 10-year average for the period of 36,426, million pounds.

Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents set a new high May 1 average of 19.13 pounds per day, 3 percent higher than the 18.57 pounds a year ago and 10 percent above the 1942-51 average of 17.35 pounds for May 1.

1952 Cotton Crop—15,136,000 Bales

A 1952 cotton crop of 15,136,000 bales is indicated by ginnings. This is only 8,000 bales less than 1951 production but 3,361,000 above the 10-year average.

Based on the season average price to May 1, the value of the 1952 crop totaled 2,617 million dollars, compared with the record high value of 2,868 million dollars for the 1951 crop.

6,176,000 Tons of Cottonseed in 1952

Cottonseed from the 1952 cotton crop totaled 6,176,000 tons, compared with 6,286,000 tons in 1951 and the 10-year average of 4,781,000 tons. 1952 cottonseed production was valued at \$429,915,000, compared with \$435,891 for the 1951 production.

Revised 1952 Tobacco Estimates

The 1952 tobacco crop is estimated at 2,255 million pounds, 3 percent less than the record 1951 crop. Value of the 1952 crop is \$1,128 million. This is the third crop in succession worth more than a billion dollars. Growers received an average of 50 cents per pound in 1952, compared with 51.1 cents in 1951.

Fewer Farm Workers This Year Than Last

10,045,000 people were at work on farms during the week of April 19-25. Of this number 1,840,000 were hired workers. 1,200,000 more persons were working on farms in late April than a month earlier, an increase of 14 percent. Slightly fewer people were working on farms this year in late April than a year earlier.

Farm Real Estate

Item	March	
	1952	1953
Average value per acre	\$80.06	\$80.31
Average value per acre (1910-12 = 100)	\$211	\$209
Total value of farm land and buildings	\$93,912,000,000	\$93,039,000,000
Year ended March 15—		
1952	1953	
Voluntary transfers of farm real estate per 1,000 farms	37.5	34.3
All transfers of farm property per 1,000 farms	52.4	47.6

Farm real estate values showed some decline in most parts of the country during the 4 months ending March 1, 1953. Declines were sharpest in the western States but decreases were more widespread than in any other 4-month period since the July-November period of 1949. The index of average value for the country as a whole as of March 1, 1953 dropped to 209 (1912-14 = 100), 2 percent below last November and 1 percent below a year earlier. Although demand for farm property has weakened steadily during the past year, farm real estate dealers report that prices of lower quality farm and pasture lands have declined more than the better grades.

Jan.-April Cash Receipts 2% Less Than Last Year

Farmers received about 8.6 billion dollars in the first 4 months of 1953, 2% less than last year.

Prices averaged 10% below a year ago, but the volume of marketings was larger.

Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	April 1953
Prices received by farmers	1910-14=100	259
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes and wage rates	1910-14=100	279
Parity ratio	1910-14=100	93
Farm wage rates	1910-14=100	1/ 508
Wholesale prices of food	1947-49=100	1/ 105
Retail prices of food	1947-49=100	1/ 112
Weekly factory earnings	1947-49=100	2/ 149
Production Comparisons	Jan.-Apr. 1952	Jan.-Apr. 1953
Milk, (bil. lb.)	35.9	38.2
Eggs, (bil.)	23.6	23.2
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 1,688	3/ 2,101
Lamb & Mutton (dr.wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 148	3/ 173
Pork & lard (mil. lb.)	3/ 3,393	3/ 2,854
All meats (dr.wt., mil.lb.)	3/ 5,347	3/ 5,283

1/ March figures.

2/ February figure revised.

3/ January-March under Federal inspection.